



## Chicago Executive Airport QuieterHome® Program

### FAQ

#### QuieterHome® Program Overview

##### **1. What is the QuieterHome® Program?**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined that certain homes around Chicago Executive Airport-PWK may be eligible for sound insulation improvements to minimize aircraft noise inside the home. Chicago Executive Airport, working with the FAA and C&S Engineers, created the QuieterHome® Program to administer these improvements.

##### **2. How does it work? Who pays for the QuieterHome® Program?**

The FAA and Chicago Executive Airport fund the entire cost of the program. The FAA funds 90 percent of the cost, and the Airport pays the remaining 10 percent. No local tax dollars are used to pay for this program, and residents will not have to pay for upgrades to their home.

##### **3. Why does Chicago Executive Airport need a QuieterHome® Program?**

Chicago Executive Airport is the fourth-largest airport in Illinois, a responsible operator and good community partner. After receiving feedback from neighbors about sound levels near the airport, Chicago Executive Airport launched a years-long effort to improve the quality of life for members of the community. The QuieterHome® Program is the most active sound mitigation initiative happening at airports across the country.

##### **4. Who is managing the QuieterHome® Program for Chicago Executive Airport?**

Chicago Executive Airport has contracted with C&S Companies to manage the program. Penny Merritt serves as the full-time administrator and is available from 8 am-4:30 pm Monday through Friday to answer questions. Penny can be reached by email at [pmerritt@cscos.com](mailto:pmerritt@cscos.com) or by phone at (847) 947-8392.

## **Eligibility and Testing**

### **5. Who is eligible for the QuieterHome® Program?**

In 2018, Chicago Executive Airport hired the engineering firm Mead & Hunt to perform a sound study. This study determined the exterior sound levels of the surrounding community and identified a noise contour of all the residential properties that experienced a 65 decibel day/night average sound level. This means the noise outside the home experienced an average of 65 decibels throughout a 24-hour period. All residential properties located on or within the contour map are eligible to be individually tested to confirm sound levels. The contour map of eligible homes can be found [here](#).

Our noise consultant, HMMH -- an international leader in environmental and transportation planning, including noise and vibration control -- will then perform interior noise testing. If the interior noise level tests at 45 decibels or higher, the home will receive sound improvements.

### **6. How can I determine if I am eligible?**

If your home is on or within the contour, you are eligible for testing. The contour map of eligible homes can be found [here](#). If you believe you qualify or need more information, please call or visit our Residential Sound Insulation Program office:

Residential Sound Insulation Program office  
204 Industrial Lane  
Wheeling, IL 60090  
Email: [pmerritt@cscos.com](mailto:pmerritt@cscos.com)  
Phone: (847) 947-8392

### **7. How many homes are eligible for testing?**

The number of residential properties eligible for interior sound testing is dependent on FAA criteria and the scope of the contour map developed in the 2018 study by engineering firm. Chicago Executive Airport is required to perform a new sound study every five years to maintain sound insulation program eligibility, and the contour map could change. As of today, the contour includes:

- 2,700 multi-family units in Wheeling and Prospect Heights
- 300 single family units in Wheeling
- 5 single family homes in Mt. Prospect

### **8. How are you determining who gets tested and when?**

Testing will be broken up into annual phases, and we expect to complete testing, design and construction on up to 40 homes per year.

After completion of an introductory phase this year, future rounds of testing, design and construction will prioritize residential properties closest to the airport first and move outward.

To streamline the testing process per FAA requirements, all eligible homes on or within the sound contour have been categorized based on building style, building structure, window glazing, etc. The



FAA mandates that 30 percent of the homes in each category have their interior noise levels tested. If all of those residential properties reach the 45 decibel threshold, then all properties that fall within that category will receive sound insulation improvements.

**9. Why does a 30 percent sample of homes determine whether my home receives improvements?**

The categorization of homes and the 30 percent testing sample are requirements of the FAA to streamline the testing process.

Chicago Executive Airport is actively working with the FAA to drop this 30 percent requirement and instead test every residential property on or within the contour.

**10. Why are you only doing testing, design and construction on 40 homes per year?**

The budget for the QuieterHome® Program is set at \$2.2 million per year. This covers the cost of the testing, design and construction of up to 50 homes.

**11. How is the interior testing conducted?**

Our noise consultant, HMMH -- an international leader in environmental and transportation planning, including noise and vibration control – uses a simulated noise source set to a 100 decibel level. When the noise source is turned on, HMMH takes noise measurements inside and outside the residential property. Homes that test at 45 decibels or higher will be offered sound insulation treatments.

**12. What sorts of equipment will be installed in homes that qualify?**

Sound mitigation can be achieved through some combination of window and door replacement and installation of a positive ventilation system.

The Program will provide homeowners with color choices for their window selections and existing window styles will be matched. There may be individual circumstances, due to manufacturing restrictions with sizing, where existing styles may not be able to be matched. Homeowners will be given several style choices for prime and storm doors.

### **Introductory Phase**

#### **13. What was the outcome of the introductory phase?**

We tested 19 single-family homes in Wheeling and nine (9) multi-family units in Prospect Heights in 2021. Of those tested, nine (9) single-family homes qualified for sound insulation, and six (6) multi-family homes qualified for sound insulation.

#### **14. I live right next to the airport at Plum Creek in Wheeling. Why wasn't I part of the introductory phase?**

The FAA requires us to perform testing on a sample of residential properties in both Wheeling and Prospect Heights. In order to sample properties in all the various housing categories, only single-family homes in Wheeling were included as part of the introductory phase.

Future rounds of testing, design and construction will prioritize residential properties closest to the airport first and move outward.

### **More Information**

#### **15. How can I stay informed about the progress of QuieterHome® Program?**

There are a number of ways to keep up to date with the status of the QuieterHome® Program:

- Chicago Executive Airport hosts quarterly updates on the program in the airport's administrative offices. These meetings are open to the public. Visit the airport website at [chiexec.com](http://chiexec.com) to learn more.
- A mailed newsletter will be delivered quarterly to all residents on or within the noise contour.
- Residents can contact the project office anytime with questions or for more information at (847) 947-8398 or email project manager Penny Merritt at [pmerritt@cscos.com](mailto:pmerritt@cscos.com).